

B-3073 - B-3078

1815-1825/1870's

805-829 S. Charles St. (East side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private and semi-public access

The rows of two and a half story, two bay wide brick houses at 813-819 S. Charles St. and 821-829 S. Charles St. are among the earliest surviving rows of Federal-style houses built in the Federal Hill area. The houses at 813-819 S. Charles St. are the earliest, having been built between 1815 and 1819 by Andrew Rohr, a butcher who lived at 813 S. Charles St. The houses are noteworthy for being only one room deep, a fact that corresponds to their early date. The larger, two-room deep row at 821-829 S. Charles St. was built in 1818-1820 by John Cator, a local brickmaker. 821-825 S. Charles St. are in close to their original exterior condition but 827-829 S. Charles St. now serves as a local bar and the facade has been drastically altered. To the north of Churchill St., at 805-807 and 809-811 S. Charles St., there are two pairs of three story, two bay wide brick buildings with shed roofs and bracketed cornices, the first floor areas of each having at some point in the past been converted to storefronts. These buildings represent either replacements or enlargements of the original two and a half story houses that were built on this site in the early 1820's by Nelson Wells, a free black who worked in the area as a drayman. Except for the bar at 827-829 S. Charles St. all of the houses in this block are currently unoccupied and awaiting renovation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3076
MAGI 0430762304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

815-819 S. Charles St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: restoration
contemplated

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3076

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This group of 2 1/2 story brick houses with gable roof and a single dormer window apiece originally formed part of a group of four such houses built as a unit along this side of Charles St. (The other member of the group, 813 S. Charles St., has been radically altered and is treated separately). The houses are sadly deteriorated, having suffered a fire. The first floor of 815 S. Charles St. has been converted into a store-front.

The houses are 2 1/2 stories in height, 13' wide, and extend back on their lots about 44'. They are constructed in Flemish bond. The steeply pitched gable roofs were originally covered with standing seam tin roofs with wooden snow guards, as now remains at 819 S. Charles St. The roofs of 815-817 S. Charles St. have been badly damaged by fire. Square-shaped, double brick chimneys originally rose along the partition walls between 813 and 815 S. Charles St., and 817 and 819 S. Charles St. Only the latter remains. A simple brick cornice extends continuously across the facade. A wide rear chimney abuts the original east end wall

The second floor window openings of the group have flat stone lintels and wood sills. The first floor openings of 817-819 S. Charles St. have splayed brick lintels and wood sills. No original sash remains and the openings are either empty or boarded. The first floor of 815 S. Charles St. has been converted into a store-front of vaguely Italianate design. A deep cornice, consisting of a projecting crown molding, decorated on its underside with scroll-sawed scallop motifs, supported by a row of carved brackets resting on a plain lower frieze, extends across the entire shop-front area. The entrance is located to the right, flanked by a three-sided projecting bay. The latter is completely covered with plaster at present, so its original appearance is not known. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by two wide stone steps. Small rectangular coal openings are located under the first floor windows.

The houses as built were one room deep with a rear kitchen extension. At some later date another rear wing was added, but this is only one story in height. Each house has one main room on the first and second floors, and on the third floor under the dormer window. The rooms on the first and second floors have fireplaces. The kitchen extension is two stories in height, but not quite as wide as the main part of the house. It consists of one long, narrow room with a wide rear kitchen fireplace on the first floor, but is divided into two small rooms on the second floor. The straight-running stairs are located along the inner wall of the kitchen wing, where the wing abuts the main part of the house. They are set parallel to the street, the flight of stairs running from the rear of the house forward. On the second floor the stairs to the dormer room are located in the front room, in the inside corner abutting the partition wall between the main part of the house and the extension. Because the interiors have been so badly damaged by fire, the only interior details that remain intact are the 4' high vertical wainscot paneling of both floors of the kitchen wing, and the mantelpiece and door and window frames of 819 S. Charles St. The mantelpiece is very simple in design, with a deep, plain frieze area supporting a simply molded, deeply projecting mantel shelf. Doric pilasters support the frieze area. The window and door frames have wide, plain, simple moldings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Andrew McClellan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This group of houses is important as being an example of a very early group of 2 1/2 story houses built in the first years of the development of Federal Hill, to house the influx of laborers settling in the area. The houses are extremely small in scale, being only one room deep with a rear kitchen addition. At the time they were built a number of slightly larger individual houses, both brick and frame, had already been erected on both the north and south sides of Montgomery St., just to the north, but no other rows of houses, all built by one builder, had yet been built (at least none that survive).

The houses are currently being offered for sale by the City to private owners and will hopefully be restored in the near future.

An early owner of the property, an Andrew Rohr, operated as a butcher at this location in 1814-15, and later was listed as a "victualler."¹

¹Baltimore City Directory, 1814-15, 1819

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

3/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

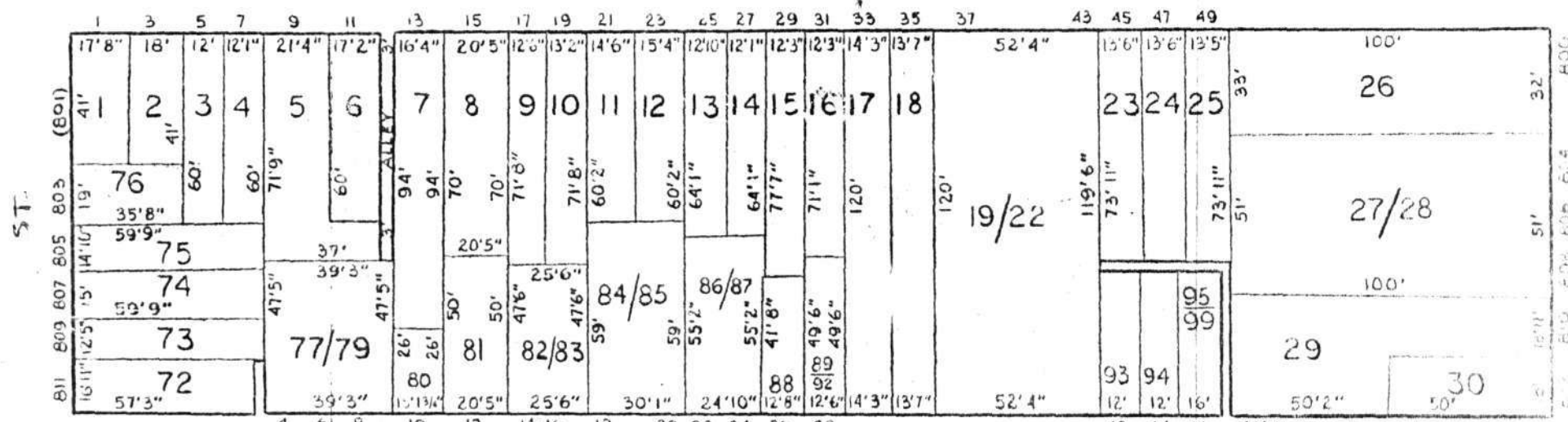
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

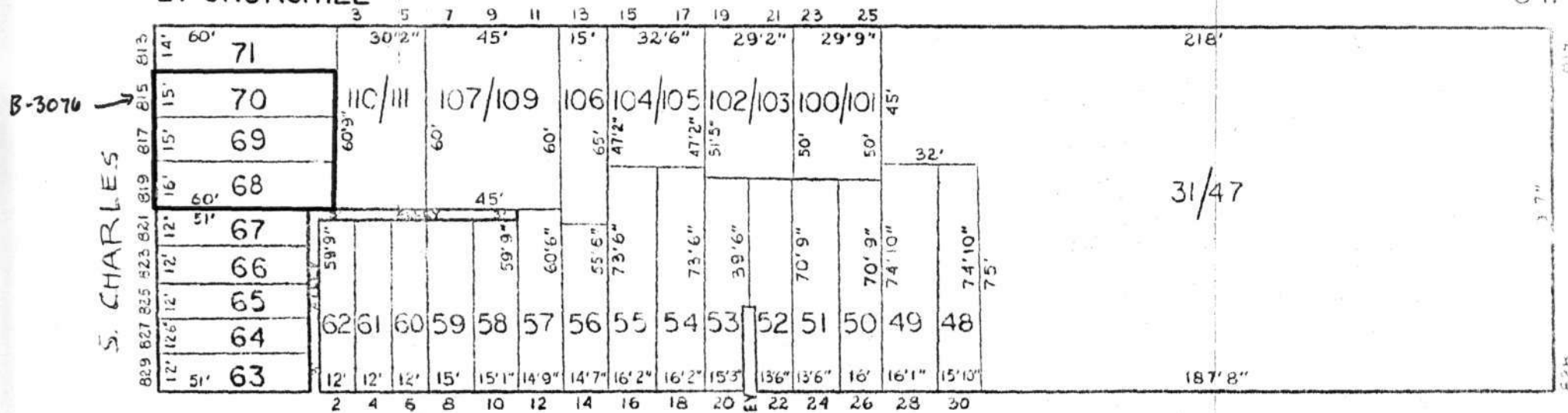
E. MONTGOMERY

ST.



E. CHURCHILL

ST.

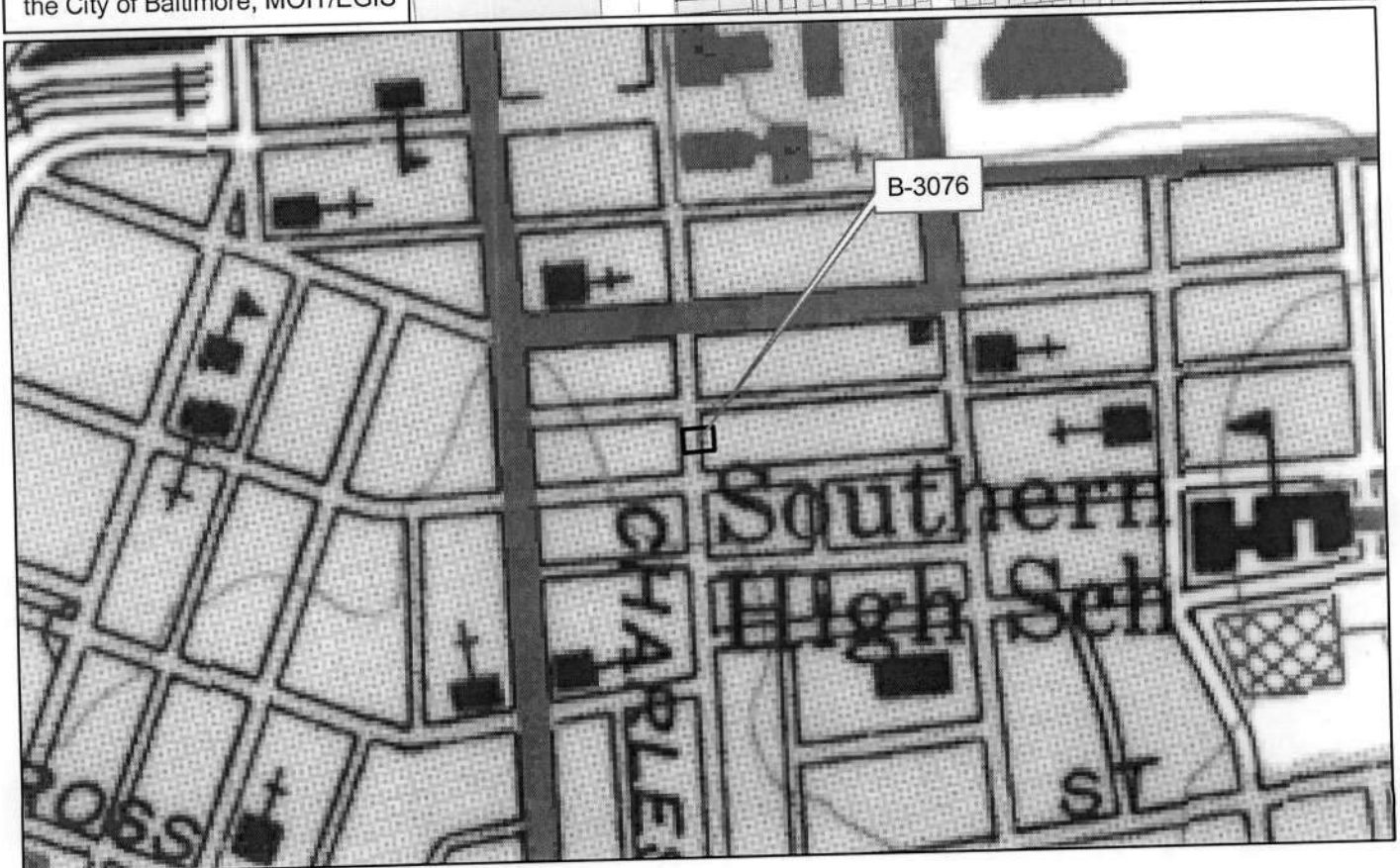
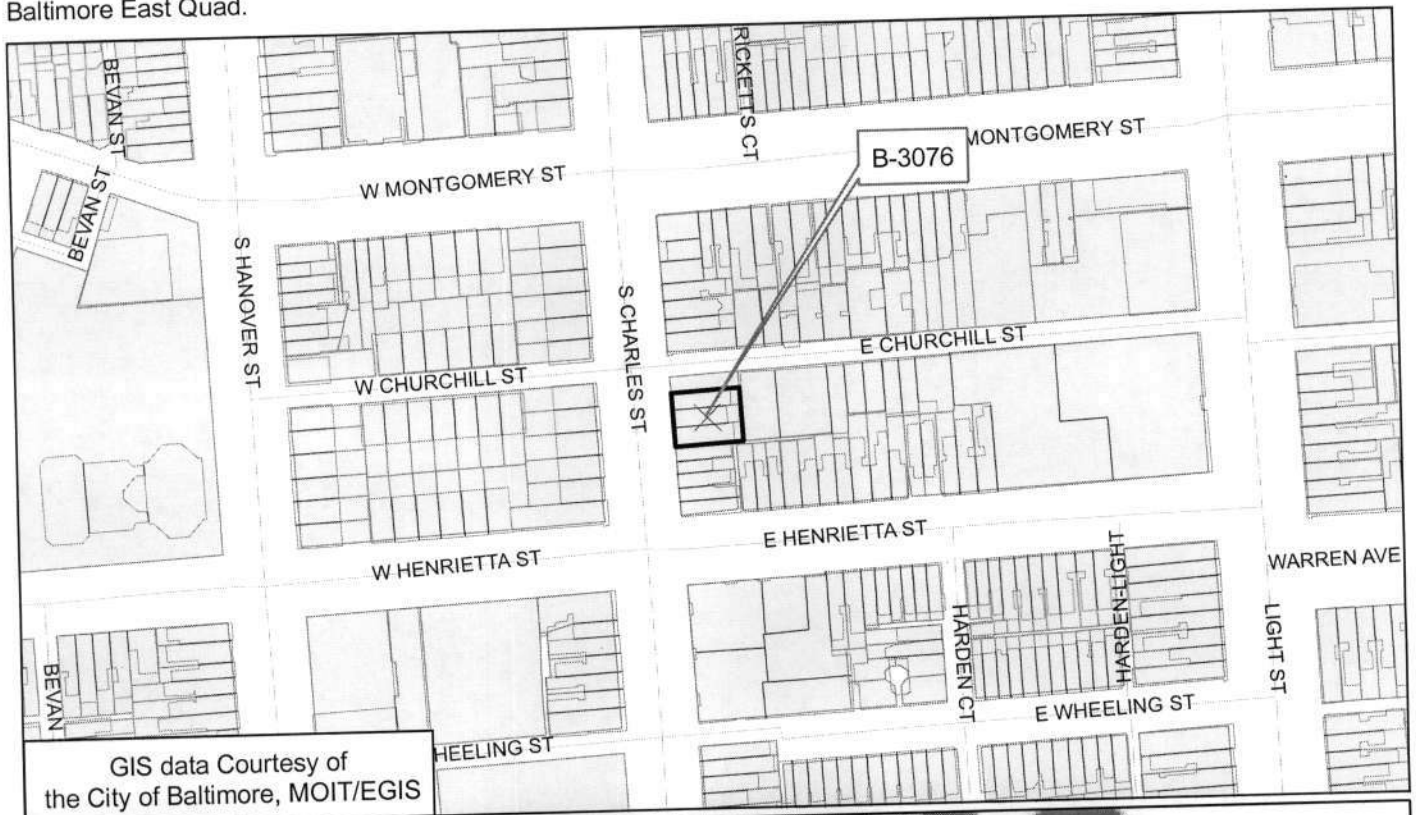


E. HENRIETTA

ST.

Demolished

B-3076
815-819 S. Charles Street
Block 0905 Lots 070-068
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3076

815-819 S. Charles St

M.E.H.

4/79

West elevation